

**REMARKS**

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Claims 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency. Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 9, 2004

By: 

Platon N. Mandros

Registration No. 22,124

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620